

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED
Attorney Docket No.: Q79674

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 4-17 (canceled).

Claim 1 (original): A method for liquid preparation of photographic reagent comprising at least a process of measuring the photographic reagent and a process of heat-melting the photographic reagent, the method comprising the steps of:

transferring, with a pump, the photographic reagent to be measured to a measuring tank via piping without being heated;

heating the photographic reagent to be melted after measuring; and

repeating the steps for every liquid preparation.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of driving the pump to rotate backward so that air is blown into the piping from an transfer-directional end of the piping for backward washing of an interior of the piping.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the photographic reagent is a prepared liquid of a silver halide emulsion for use in a heat-developable photosensitive material.